

(c) a fragment of (a) or (b), wherein the fragment has aminopeptidase activity;
wherein the polypeptide having aminopeptidase activity sequentially removes one amino acid residue at a time from the N-terminus of a peptide, polypeptide, or protein.

Claim 208 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 209 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 208, comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 210 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 209, comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 97% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 211 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of contiguous amino acids of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the fragment has aminopeptidase activity.

Claim 212 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 208, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 213 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 212, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.

Claim 214 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under medium stringency conditions with the nucleic acid sequence of nucleotides 46 to 1488 of SEQ ID NO:1 or its full complementary strand, wherein medium stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization and hybridization at 42°C in 5X SSPE, 0.3% SDS, 200 µg/ml sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 35% formamide.

Claim 215 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 214, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 216 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 215, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.

Claim 217 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the nucleic acid sequence of nucleotides 46 to 1488 of SEQ ID NO:1 or its full complementary strand, wherein high stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization and hybridization at 42°C in 5X SSPE, 0.3% SDS, 200 µg/ml sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 50% formamide.

Claim 218 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 217, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 219 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 218, which is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.

Claim 220 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, which is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence contained in plasmid pEJG18 which is contained in *E. coli* NRRL B-21677.

Claim 221 (previously added): The polypeptide of claim 207, wherein the polypeptide hydrolyzes a substrate containing Ala, Glu, Gly, or Pro at its N-terminus.

→ Claim 222 (previously added): A method for producing the secreted polypeptide of claim 207 comprising (a) cultivating a microbial strain, which in its wild-type form produces the polypeptide, in a medium under conditions suitable for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide from the medium. *in isolated form.* ?

Claim 223 (previously added): A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 207 and a suitable carrier.

Claim 224 (previously added): The composition of claim 223, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 225 (previously added): The composition of claim 225, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 226 (previously added): The composition of claim 225, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence which has at least 97% identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 227 (previously added): The composition of claim 223, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of contiguous amino acids of amino acids 16 to 496 of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the fragment has aminopeptidase activity.

Claim 228 (previously added): The composition of claim 227, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 229 (previously added): The composition of claim 228, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.

Claim 230 (previously added): The composition of claim 223, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under medium stringency conditions with the nucleic acid sequence of nucleotides 46 to 1488 of SEQ ID NO:1, or its full complementary strand, wherein medium stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization and hybridization at 42°C in 5X SSPE, 0.3% SDS, 200 µg/ml sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 35% formamide.

Claim 231 (previously added): The composition of claim 230, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 232 (previously added): The composition of claim 231, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.

Claim 233 (previously added): The composition of claim 223, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the nucleic acid sequence of nucleotides 46 to 1488 of SEQ ID NO:1, or its full complementary strand, wherein high stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization and hybridization at 42°C in 5X SSPE, 0.3% SDS, 200 µg/ml sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 50% formamide.

Claim 234 (previously added): The composition of claim 233, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus* strain.

Claim 235 (previously added): The composition of claim 234, wherein the polypeptide is obtained from an *Aspergillus oryzae* strain.